

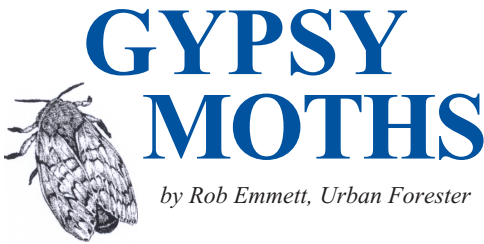


**August A. Busch Memorial Conservation Area**  
**Powder Valley Conservation Nature Center**  
**Rockwoods Reservation**



# *Making Tracks*

*June 2002* *Volume 02, Number 06*



## **GYPSY MOTHS**

*by Rob Emmett, Urban Forester*

In the late 1860's, what started out as good intentions by a French artist, has led to a modern day disaster for our American forest ecosystem. Etienne Leopold Trouvelot was not only an artist, but also an amateur entomologist with an interest in silkworms and the silk industry. History tells us that in the late 1860's Trouvelot returned from a trip to France with gypsy moth egg masses. During his attempt to culture these egg masses in the backyard of his Massachusetts home, the gypsy moth escaped and began its infamous journey across the United States.

The gypsy moth, *Lymantria dispar*, is a European/Asian member of the tussock moth (Liparidae) family. Like many exotic species brought into the United States, the gypsy moth has few natural enemies to help keep their populations in check. As if this were not bad enough, you must also realize that the gypsy moth is polyphagous, meaning that it can feed on hundreds of different plants and the oak tree is one of its favorites. Therefore, we have an unchecked population on the move with an unlimited food supply in front of it.

Currently, the gypsy moth occupies the entire northeastern United States as well as parts of Virginia, North Carolina, Ohio and Michigan. Moth populations like this are estimated to spread about 15 miles per year under "normal" conditions. At this rate the moth should occupy Missouri around the year 2030.

If a single gypsy moth caterpillar in Missouri can eat nine square feet of leaves in only a couple of months, think what large populations could do to our native oak/hickory forests. A single defoliation may not kill a mature tree outright, but can severely stress a tree to a point where drought, disease or insects may finish it off. Research shows that during the first several years of a gypsy moth outbreak, you can experience anywhere between 10 to 85 percent tree mortality, depending on the health and species mixture of your forest. In Missouri the high percentage of oaks in our forest composition, coupled with the current health problems of oak decline and red oak borers in portions of the Ozarks makes a case for potentially high mortality rates.

So what are we doing in Missouri to prepare for the gypsy moth? The most visible is an extensive survey program developed in 1967 by the Missouri Department of Agriculture. The Forestry Division of the Missouri Department of Conservation along with several other agencies cooperate with the Department of Agriculture in putting up thousands of traps annually along roads and within your neighborhoods. These small, triangular, cardboard traps contain a pheromone (scent) produced by the female gypsy moth. The male moths follow the scent and find a sticky trap, instead of the "female of their dreams."

This annual survey helps us detect spot infestations early. After a moth is trapped, the area around the trap is set up as a "delimit area," whereby extensive trapping is done the following year. This summer we will be putting up about 200 traps in St. Charles County, 330 traps in Jefferson County and 500 traps in St. Louis County. We will also have several delimit areas established as a result of last year's trapping results.

Dr. Rob Lawrence, forest entomologist for the Missouri Department of Conservation, said "...we trapped our first gypsy moth in 1974. Since 1980 we have trapped at least one moth every year in the St. Louis region and at least one every year in Stone or Taney counties (Branson, Table Rock Lake, etc.) since 1992. So far, no populations of gypsy moth are established in Missouri...as far as we know."



Please visit the following website for more information:  
[www.fs.fed.us/na/morgantown/fhp/gm/gmhbm.htm#Life](http://www.fs.fed.us/na/morgantown/fhp/gm/gmhbm.htm#Life)

News from  
**Powder Valley Conservation**  
**Nature Center**



### *Resident Artisan*

**Scott Patrick**

#### **Wildlife Sketching Workshop**

Saturday, June 15, 2002

(Ages 9-15) 10:00 a.m. - Noon

(Ages 16 & up) 1:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.



Powder Valley is proud to have freelance artist Scott Patrick demonstrate wildlife drawing. Scott has provided graphic design and illustrations to publishers, advertising agencies and other corporations for over 12 years. He has taught art classes at UMSL and the St. Louis Artists' Guild. Scott is a member of the Missouri Wildlife Artists Society. Come and learn from a professional how to draw the animals you observe in the wild.

(Reservations begin June 3.)

**T**he Ruby-throated Hummingbird is Missouri's smallest bird, famous for its brilliant colors, show-off aerobatic ability, and belligerent attitude. Many St. Louis area families maintain hummingbird feeders or plant nectar flowers. They are rewarded with frequent visits and dazzling "dogfights" throughout the summer. The first hummingbirds typically arrive in our area around April 20. Many of them ignore feeders during nesting season, late April through May, this is because their growing chicks need insects instead of sugar. Some Ruby-throats begin migrating south as early as July 1, and by mid-October all have departed for Mexico and Central America for the winter.



**11715 Cragwold Road  
 Kirkwood, MO 63122  
 (314) 301 - 1500**

#### **LOCATION:**

From I-44 east in Kirkwood, take Watson Road, exit and turn north on Geyer Road. Follow Geyer Road 200 yards to Cragwold Road. Go 1 mile west on Cragwold Road.

#### **AREA HOURS:**

Daylight Saving Time:

8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Central Standard Time:

8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

#### **NATURE CENTER HOURS:**

Open all year, 7 days a week,  
 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

#### **GIFT SHOP HOURS:**

Open all year, 7 days a week,  
 from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

#### **ABOUT THE AREA:**

112 acres of forestland and winding creeks, three hiking trails (one wheelchair accessible). Open to visitors free of charge.

## ***SUMMER HUMMINGBIRDS***

Saturday, June 8 & 29, 2002

10:00 a.m. - Noon

Have you ever been close enough to a hummingbird to count its iridescent red throat feathers? Here's your chance! Licensed hummingbird bander Lanny Chambers will be at Powder Valley Conservation Nature Center. You are invited to watch as he captures, measures, bands and releases these beautiful little birds.

After their encounter with Lanny, each hummer will sport a harmless, numbered aluminum bracelet about half the size of a BB, permanently identifying it as an individual. All banding information is sent to the USGS Bird Banding Laboratory database in Maryland. If a banded bird is recaptured later, we learn something about its life and travels. Hummingbirds are not well studied compared to most other birds, and much remains to be learned.

Bring your good camera, and a macro lens if possible. To learn more about hummingbirds, see Lanny's website, <http://www.hummingbirds.net/>

*For all ages. No reservations are necessary. To ensure the welfare of the birds, banding sessions may be cancelled in case of rain.*

News from

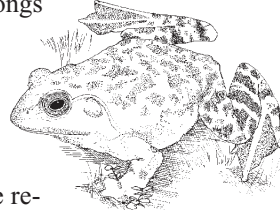
# Rockwoods Reservation

## Love Duets In The Marsh

by Erin Connett, Naturalist

As you enjoy evening hikes this spring, listen for the deep “ger-a-a-rum” that echoes through the night. No, this isn’t Barry White hiding out, but the Love Songs of the bullfrog.

Male bullfrogs have been pinned with the loudest sound produced by any cold-blooded creature in this area. With calls that can carry over a half-mile, male bullfrogs try to lure in eligible bachelorettes with their deep “I’m the one” calls. Once the female finds her perfect bachelor, she responds by hopping or swimming toward the sound. As she approaches the male, he will climb onto her and clasp his arms around her waist until she releases eggs that he can fertilize. This mating position is called amplexus. Amplexus may last from several hours to several days. Any frog that gets within range of the luring frog usually gets clasped with his arms. If the captured frog is a female that is not ready to lay eggs, or a male for that matter, the clasped frog will let out a high-pitched release call which will cause the frog to let go.



Once the eggs have been fertilized, the tadpoles will hatch in about five days and will feed mainly on algae. It takes two years for a bullfrog tadpole to turn into a frog and another two years to become mature.

June is the peak of bullfrog mating, so take time to hear the love duets of these fantastic frogs!



## Become a young Rockwoods Ranger by attending our Theme Weeks!

Throughout the months of June and July Rockwoods is offering Theme Weeks! Three 90 minute programs will be given followed by a 30 minute comprehensive trivia game on Friday. Students that attend all three programs will be awarded certificates of completion and will be added to our Rockwoods Rangers list! See program page for more information.

### BUSCH RANGE

#### Hours for June 2002:

10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Friday-Monday

2:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Tuesday

Closed Wednesday & Thursday

For more information,  
call (636) 441-4554 ext. 251

### HENGES RANGE

#### Hours for June 2002:

2:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Wednesday

10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Thursday-Sunday

Closed Monday & Tuesday,  
Special Events & Holidays

For more information,  
call (636) 938-9548

Effective July 1, 2002 Rockwoods Reservation will close its Education Center building for weekends during the months of July and August, and November through February. The area itself, including the picnic areas, trails and comfort station/restrooms will remain open seven days a week, year round. The Education Center will be open seven days a week during all other months. Staff will continue to serve you by providing programs on a year-round basis.

**2751 Glencoe Road  
Wildwood, MO 63038  
(636) 458 - 2236**

### LOCATION:

From I-44, take Hwy 109 (Eureka exit) north 4 miles to Woods Avenue; left on Woods Avenue, and then immediately right on Glencoe Road; follow signs.

From Hwy 40 (I-64), take Clarkson Road south to Manchester Road; right (west) on Manchester to Hwy 109; left (south) on Highway 109, 2 miles to Woods Avenue; right on Woods Avenue, and then immediately right on Glencoe Road; follow signs.

From Manchester Road, take Hwy 109 south 2 miles to Woods Avenue; right on Woods Avenue, and immediately right on Glencoe Road; follow signs.

### AREA HOURS:

Sunrise until 1/2 hour after sunset.

### VISITOR CENTER HOURS:

Open seven days a week during the months of March, April, May, June, September and October, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. The Visitor Center will be closed on weekends during the months of July, August, November, December, January and February.

### ABOUT THE AREA:

All facilities are free to the public including:

- \*Education Center with exhibits and interpretive programs.
- \*1,898 acres of rugged, mostly hardwood forested land interspersed with springs and streams.
- \*Two picnic areas (one with charcoal grills) with drinking water, tables, and toilets.
- \*Seven trails (one is self-guided and wheelchair accessible) totaling more than 10 miles.

# How to register for a JUNE Program

Reservations are required unless otherwise specified. Reservations will be taken Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Programs are intended for individuals and families only. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel your reservation as a courtesy to those on our waiting list. Please limit requests to two programs per month, with only one to include an Ages 3-6 program. **Please be prompt. Arrival after 10 minutes may exclude you from the program.** Interpreting services are available for people with hearing loss with five days advance notice.

## ROCKWOODS

For reservations, call (636) 458 - 2236

### Herpetology Week

- (Ages 7-12) Missouri is home to many amazing herps!
- We will take an in-depth look at these slimy and scaly creatures and each day we will explore Rockwoods in search for these creatures!
- 3 Amphibians** 10:00 - 11:30 a.m.
- 5 Turtles** 10:00 - 11:30 a.m.
- 7 Snakes & Lizards** 10:00 a.m. - Noon  
(Reservations begin May 27.)

### Aquatic Week

- (Ages 7-12) Get your hands wet and search for underwater wonder! Each aquatic environment has a unique set of plant and animal residents.
- 10 Wetland Discovery** 10:00 - 11:30 a.m.
- 12 Spring Discovery** 10:00 - 11:30 a.m.
- 14 Pond Discovery** 10:00 a.m. - Noon  
(Reservations begin May 29.)

### Outdoor Skills Week

- (Ages 8-14) Hands-on learning of important outdoor skills!!
- 17 Orienteering** 10:00 - 11:30 a.m.
- 19 Archery** 10:00 - 11:30 a.m.
- 21 Fire Building** 10:00 - 11:30 a.m.
- 21 Outdoor Skills Olympics** 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.  
(Outdoor skills olympics will only be for those students who have attended all three programs.)  
(Reservations begin June 3.)

### Natural Communities Week

- (Ages 7-12) Location, Location!! Missouri's natural communities make for diverse plant and animal life! Check out three different Missouri ecosystems.
- 24 Prairie Ecology** 10:00 - 11:30 a.m.
- 26 Forest Ecology** 10:00 - 11:30 a.m.
- 28 Cave Ecology** 10:00 a.m. - Noon  
(Reservations begin June 10.)

## BUSCH AREA

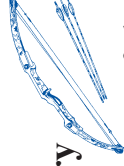
For reservations, call (636) 441 - 4554

### 8 Busch Trail Hike

*Saturday* 8:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.  
(Adults) Join us for a leisurely hike on the Busch Hiking & Biking Trail (3.2 miles). Please wear sturdy hiking shoes and dress for the weather. (Reservations begin May 24.)

### 9 Beginning Archery

*Sunday* 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.  
(Ages 8 & up) Learn the history of archery, parts of a bow & arrow and how to shoot safely. Parents must accompany their children. (Reservations begin May 24.)



### 12 Through Lewis & Clark's Eyes

*Wednesday* 10:00 a.m. - Noon  
(Ages 7-12) See the Missouri River through the eyes of the men of the Corps of Discovery. (Reservation begin May 29.)

### 14 Finding Your Way!

*Friday* 9:00 a.m. - Noon  
(Ages 11-16) Learn the basics of how to use a compass through a series of games and challenges. Compasses will be provided. Please wear sturdy shoes and dress for being outside. (Reservations begin May 31.)

### 18 Stream Study

*Tuesday* 9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.  
(Ages 7-12) You will find fish, crawfish and tadpoles in a stream, but are there other critters living in there too? Find out how they help each other and the stream! Bring water shoes and a towel. (Reservations begin June 4.)

### 19 Let's Read About...

*Wednesday* 9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. &

## POWDER VALLEY

For reservations, call (314) 301 - 1500

### 4 Beginning Basketmaking with Invasive Vines

*Tuesday* 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.  
(Ages 6 & up) Learn about invasive vines and use them to make a primitive basket. (Reservations begin May 21.)

### 5 Baby Mammals

*Wednesday* 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.  
(Ages 3-6) Learn how mammals take care of their babies and how they are different from other animals. (Reservations begin May 22.)

### 5 Hiking Broken Ridge Trail

*Wednesday* 2:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.  
(Adults) Hike Broken Ridge Trail to see what birds, trees and flowers may be there. (Reservations begin May 22.)

### 8&29 Summer Hummingbirds

*Saturday* 10:00 a.m. - Noon  
(All Ages) See page 2 for more information.

### 8 Wet and Wonderful

*Saturday* 1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.  
(Ages 6-10) Explore the wonders of the wetland environment and learn how important water is to our planet. (Reservations begin May 24.)

### 10 Babes In The Woods

*Monday* 9:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.  
(Ages Birth-3) A stroller walk to acquaint the young with the world of nature. (Reservations begin May 24.)

### 15 Wildlife Sketching Workshop

*Saturday* 10:00 a.m. - Noon  
(Ages 9-15) 1:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.  
(Ages 16 & up)

If students attend all three programs in one week they receive prizes.  
For more information see the Rockwoods page.

## 6 Fireflies

*Wednesday* 7:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.  
(Families) Join us and learn about these unique insects. We will catch and release fireflies and make a bug box to take home. Please, one bug box per family. (Reservations begin May 23.)

## 8 Hunt and Sketch!

*Saturday* 9:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.  
(Families Ages 5+) A scavenger hunt with a twist: instead of collecting natural objects, we'll draw them! We will take a short hike, to closely observe nature through searching and sketching. (Reservations begin May 24.)

## 29 Bats and Bat Houses

*Saturday* 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.  
(Families) Learn about these flying insect eaters and why they are so beneficial. We will build a Bat House for you to take home! Please bring a hammer and drill, one house per family. (Reservations begin June 14.)

### Jay Henges Shooting Range

For reservations, call (636) 441-4554

#### Clay Target Shooting

*Wednesday, June 5 & 12, 2002* 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.  
*Wednesday, July 10 & 17, 2002* 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.  
Introduction to shotgun clay target shooting, which includes shotgun safety, shotgun lingo, ammunition, shooting fundamentals, live firing exercise, shotgun maintenance and storage.

#### Youth Hunter Education Day Camp

*June 17-21, 2002* 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.  
Camp will include the Hunter Education Course, shooting instructions with .22 cal. rifles, 20 gauge shotguns, black powder rifles and archery. Camp also covers wildlife management for Missouri game species. This program is for youths age 11-15 and requires a \$50 advanced registration fee.

#### Family Range Day

*Saturday, June 29, 2002* 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.  
Youths 18 and under shoot free! You will have to provide your own firearm, ammunition, eye and ear protection. No reservations necessary.

*11:00 a.m. - Noon*  
(Ages 3-6) Find out what happens when a boy wants to keep a pet salamander in his room! We will read the book Salamander Room. (Reservations begin June 5.)

## 20 Evening Wildflower Hike

*Thursday* 7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.  
(All Ages) Discover which flowers are blooming on the hiking trails at Busch in June. Please wear sturdy hiking shoes and dress for the weather. (Reservations begin June 6.)

## 22 Forest, Facts & Fun

*Saturday* 1:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.  
(All Ages) A forest is not just a "bunch of trees," it is a community of plants and animals dependent on each other for survival. Includes an optional 30 minute hike. (Reservations begin June 7.)

### Attention Scout & Youth Group Leaders!

Are you looking for activities to do with your group while visiting the Busch Conservation Area? Consider checking out one of our backpacks. These packs are filled with materials and activities that will help your group make the most of your trip to Busch.

The following backpacks can be checked out at the Busch Conservation Area:

**Fallen Oak Trail Pack**  
**Brownie Try-It Pack**  
**Junior Ecology Pack**  
**Webelos Naturalist Pack**  
**Webelos Forester Pack**

If you want more information about the backpacks or would like to check one out to use, stop by the front desk during normal office hours. All backpacks must be returned by 3:00 p.m.

### SOULARD OUTDOOR TEACHER RESOURCE CENTER

For reservations, call (314) 231-3803

## 1 Trash Talk

*Saturday* 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.  
(Families) Do you want to help wild animals? Here's your chance to explore simple, easy ways to reduce your trash and help wildlife at the same time. (Reservations begin May 17.)

Learn from a professional artist how to draw the animals you observe in the wild. (Reservations begin May 31.)

## 15&29 Identification of Common Missouri Trees

*Saturday* 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.  
(Adults) Walk a trail and identify Missouri's most common trees and discuss their usage. (Reservations begin May 31 and June 14, respectively.)

## 19 Hiking Hickory Ridge Trail

*Wednesday* 2:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.  
(Adults) Hike our longest trail to see what birds, trees and flowers may be there. (Reservations begin June 5.)

## 20 Lewis & Clark Encounters

### Nature Journaling

*Thursday* 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. &  
1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.  
(Ages 12 & up) Make a journal and start journaling like Lewis & Clark. (Reservations begin June 6.)

## 20 Beginning Birding

*Thursday* 10:30 a.m. - 11:15 a.m.  
(Ages 3-6) Come learn about this fast growing sport! (Reservations begin June 6.)

## 21 Homeschool Programs

*Friday* 1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

### Lewis & Clark Encounters: MO Tenderfoots

(Ages 3-6) Look and see what you can draw! Make your own binoculars and journal to get started. (Reservations begin June 7.)

### Lewis & Clark Encounters: Natural Record Keepers

(Ages 7-12) Make a journal and get started journaling like Lewis & Clark. (Reservations begin June 7.)

## 21 Summer Evening Walk at Emmy

*Friday* 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.  
(Ages 9 & up) Relax with a summer evening stroll. Meet at the Emmenegger bridge. (Reservations begin June 7.)



## 22 Map and Compass

*Saturday* Noon - 2:00 p.m.  
(Ages 10 & up) Learn how to use a compass and map (Reservations begin June 7.)

News from **Busch** Memorial Conservation Area



## My Berry Favorite Season

by Kathy Thiele, Naturalist

For those of you who live for the hunt (of berries), June is a month long awaited. Beginning in June, you can start looking first for dewberries, then gooseberries, and finally raspberries. All are delicious when prepared properly, but all come with a price - THORNS! For pie lovers, though, they are well worth the price.

Dewberries look just like blackberries and taste the same but grow on low, rounded canes close to the ground instead of on ribbed, upright canes. (Blackberries will come in July. Be patient!) Look for dewberries growing in old open fields that have had a few years to grow up in weeds or along the edges of woods.

You'll need to hunt for gooseberries in the woods. The berries are small, round, hard, and green turning reddish. Don't expect to be able to pop the green berry in your mouth like you do raspberries and blackberries. Both the green and reddish berries can be used but the green gooseberries are tart and the taste reminds me of rhubarb.

The common wild raspberry in Missouri is the black raspberry. When ripe, the berry will pull neatly off the end of the stem leaving a hollow spot in the middle of the berry and leaving the whole berry to look something like a thimble. The canes are smooth and purplish with a whitish coating that rubs off. In winter, these purplish canes stand out like a chocolate donut in a box of glazed, making winter a good time to scout out your raspberry patch.

It helps to have the right equipment: be sure to wear insect repellant to ward off chiggers and ticks; wear clothing with a tight weave like cotton duck to avoid being torn to shreds by thorns; boots, a leather glove for the hand holding the bowl, and a hat are a good idea too. (Briar proof chaps are my secret weapon.)

Now that you know what to do - get out, pick some berries, and call me when the pie is done!



## Snakes, Ticks, and Ivy, Oh My!

by Shanna Raeker, Naturalist



Are you afraid of snakes, ticks, or poison ivy? Don't let your fear prevent you from enjoying nature. With the right equipment and a little know-how, you can enjoy the outdoors with no worries.

Snakes are a big concern for some people, but there is no need for alarm. Most snake bites occur when people are trying to pick up or kill a snake. If you avoid doing those things, you have little chance of being bitten. If you happen to be bitten by a harmless snake, you should treat it like any other scrape. If you are bitten by a venomous snake, you should get to a hospital immediately.

Ticks are another nuisance of the outdoor world. Spraying insect repellents on clothing or your skin can reduce your encounters with these parasites. If you use a repellent, make sure to read the instructions before applying it. Another trick to avoid ticks is to tuck your pant legs into your socks. Then put a ring or two of duct tape around the top of your sock. This will keep most of the ticks from getting to your skin.

The other demon of the woods is poison ivy. Your best defense against poison ivy is identification. If you can learn to identify the plant, you can avoid touching it and therefore prevent yourself from getting the rash. Poison ivy can be identified by its 3 leaves, with the middle leaf being on a long stalk. If you aren't sure of a plant, your best bet is to follow the saying, "Leaves of 3, let it be."

Being outdoors doesn't have to be a nightmare. With a little preparation and knowledge, you should be able to enjoy nature without fear.



**2360 Highway D  
St. Charles, MO  
63304  
(636) 441 - 4554**

### LOCATION:

From Hwy 40, take 94 south to Hwy D; turn west on D for approx. 1 mile.

From I-70, take 94/First Capitol exit; turn south on Hwy 94 to Hwy D; turn west on D for approx. 1 mile. The area entrance is on the north side of Hwy D.

### HOURS:

Area is open from 6 a.m. until 10 p.m. See area regulations for special hunt hours. Fishing hours are from 6 a.m. until 9 p.m. Rental boats are available April 1 through September 30. The office is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m. It is closed some state holidays.

### ABOUT THE AREA:

6,987 acres with 32 lakes and 40 ponds totaling 526 acres of water for fishing. There are six viewing blinds (two are wheelchair accessible), seven hiking trails totaling 5 miles, picnic area, staffed firearms range, and fishing jetties (some are wheelchair accessible). The area has interpretive programs, exhibits, demonstration sites and is used by bicyclists.



## The Educators' Niche

by David J. Bruns, Conservation Education Consultant




## What Students Should Know About Ticks



Summer is a great time of year to engage students in outdoor learning activities. These activities may take place in outdoor classrooms or in more wild natural settings. Naturally, many teachers, outdoor leaders, students and their parents have concerns about ticks and the potential for contracting tick-borne diseases. While these concerns should not deter students from spending time in the outdoors, knowledge about ticks, as well as the use of strategies which reduce potential contacts with ticks, serve to alleviate these concerns.

Tick-borne diseases, including Lyme disease, are relatively uncommon in Missouri, making the chances of contracting one remote. Although these illnesses can become serious if not treated, they are easily treated following a proper diagnosis from a qualified physician. Some people may also have an allergic-type reaction to tick bites, the most common of which is a small itchy red spot on the skin which disappears in a few weeks. Although it is best to have any tick bite examined by a doctor, this is especially true if a rash more than an inch wide appears at the site of a bite. It could be a sign of a tick related illness. If you develop flu-like symptoms any time within a month after being bitten, it's also important to see a physician.

Knowing and using "Tick Protection" strategies is an outdoor skill which can and should be taught to students. By applying these strategies, students can enjoy the outdoors while reducing the chance of contracting tick related illnesses to almost zero.

More information about ticks and tick-borne diseases can be found at any of the MDC offices as well as on the web at [http://atum.isis.vt.edu/~fanjun/text/Link\\_spect02.html#disease](http://atum.isis.vt.edu/~fanjun/text/Link_spect02.html#disease). 

### TICK PROTECTION STRATEGIES:

#### Before you go out:

- Wear light colored clothing. Long sleeves and pants are desirable.
- Consider spraying insect repellent containing DEET on clothes.

#### While you are out:

- Stay on the trail. Avoid brushy and grassy areas.
- Do frequent "Tick Checks." Have your buddy check you over for crawling ticks and do the same for them.
- Do the "Tick Flick" to flick off any crawling ticks you find. The sticky side of masking or duct tape is also great to remove crawling ticks, especially those tiny "seed ticks" (tick larvae).

#### When you get back:

- Take a bath or shower and conduct a thorough full body check.
- Wash your clothes in hot water.

#### If you find a tick attached to you:

- Grasp the tick with fine tweezers as close to your skin as possible, and pull straight out. (**Do not** use a lighted match, cigarette or Vaseline to force the tick to back out.) Wash the area with a good disinfectant.
- Save the tick on a piece of clear tape. Write down the date and location of the bite. (This information can be shared with a physician in the unlikely event that you develop symptoms later.)

## UPCOMING WORKSHOPS

### Lewis & Clark & the Big River Confluence

June 11-13, 2002

9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

August A. Busch Memorial Conservation Area

Credit: One hour graduate

Lindenwood University

Contact: David Bruns at (636) 458-2236

### Mudpies to Crawdads

June 18-20, 2002

9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

August A. Busch Memorial Conservation Area

Credit: One hour graduate

Lindenwood University

Contact: Nancy Snider at (636) 441-4554 ext. 245

### Animal Adaptations and Behavior

June 25-27, 2002

Times Vary

St. Louis Zoo and Powder Valley Conservation Nature Center

Credit: One hour graduate

Lindenwood University

Contact: Jim Jordan at 314-781-0900 ext. 340

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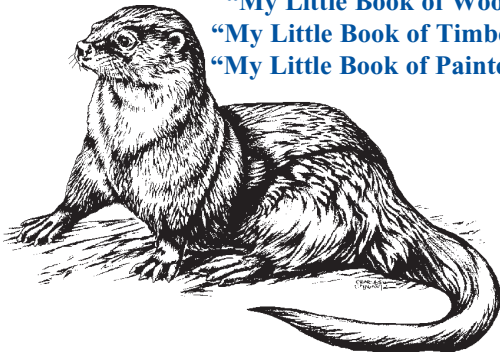


***Making Tracks***  
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## ***Making Tracks***

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Cindy Bruns

### **Interpretive Programs Supervisor, Rockwoods:**

Tom Meister

## **Volunteer Milestones**

### **Busch Conservation Area**

Penny Elder.....200 hours  
Rhonda Husak.....600 hours  
Joel Lovelace.....600 hours  
Larry Taylor.....1200 hours  
Dick Baumann.....1400 hours  
Karen Staloch.....1800 hours

### **Rockwoods Reservation**

Pat Diemer.....100 hours  
Susan Farrington.....100 hours  
Wendy Pulliman.....100 hours  
Bob Ziegler.....100 hours

*Thanks for all your  
effort and help!*

### **Powder Valley Nature Center**

Warene Anderson...3200 hours  
Priscilla Jenkins.....400 hours  
Bill Maass.....2700 hours  
Eleanora Markus....300 hours  
Tom O’Gorman....2400 hours  
Mary Piotraschke.1300 hours  
Neva Wasson.....3400 hours  
Marjorie Yamada.2400 hours  
Jeanne Clauson.....100 hours